AFRL moves towards data integration with EDM

as submitted by the EBS Program Office

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — The Air Force Research Laboratory will soon have the ability to transform redundant, stove-piped data islands that exist throughout the laboratory into quality "single-truth" data that are available lab-wide.

The transformation will result from the ongoing Enterprise Data Management (EDM) initiative within AFRL's Enterprise Business System (EBS) Program to integrate and streamline the AFRL's business functions through enabling information technology.

EDM is an architectural construct that integrates data sources, data preparation, and data management into a common end-to-end data utility, ultimately ensuring compliance with recent Secretary of the Air Force direction.

AFRL's EDM approach consists of two major objectives: establishing enterprise data management and establishing enterprise data integration. Toward that end, a data stewardship/quality management approach is being implemented.

"EDM is our future. It is the primary enabler on our journey to total information visibility for us and our stakeholders. It's a fundamental prerequisite to genuine cultural transformation," said Col Tom Hamilton, AFRL's Chief Information Officer.

EDM's primary output is "single-truth," decisional data delivered via simple, user-friendly business intelligence tools. "Single-truth" means that data has only one owner, but multiple "real time" data customers.

"The benefits of single-truth data at AFRL are two-fold: information will be accurate and timely, and users will not need to enter the same data more than once," said George Orzel, EBS program manager.

EDM is a winning initiative for AFRL, both in the short and long terms. AFRL will benefit in the short-term through improved data quality, access, and integration. The long-term benefits of EDM will be decreased time, effort, and cost of data calls, and reduced integration development across AFRL's 10 technology directorates. Similar benefits will accrue through seamless integration with other Air Force systems, including AFMC's Enterprise Data Warehouse initiative, as well as financial and HR data contained in standard Air Force systems.

Above all, EDM will benefit scientists and engineers on cross-organizational and cross-functional teams with unmet analytical and reporting needs.

Ultimately, EDM will broadly improve the timeliness and quality of enterprise data, thus improving responsiveness and enabling better decision-making throughout AFRL. **@**